

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155840
ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AGRIC:FAS:AA:GSBROWN
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
FAS:ABERNITZ
FAS:JBESHOAR
FAS:DLHUME
ARS:TEDMINSTER
SEC:DEHATHAWAY
SEC:JCWHITE
AGRIC:ERBEVIS

-----062693 052329Z /66

P 052200Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAGR, BU, OVIP (SHOPOV, VULKAN)

SUBJECT:SHOPOV AND AGRICULTURE DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE AGREE
TO WORK OUT AGRICULTURAL-AGREEMENT

1. DURING CORDIAL VISIT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE JUNE
22, VULKAN SHOPOV, CHIEF, AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, CC, BCP,
AND AMBASSADOR POPOV REINTRODUCED SUBJECT OF AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USDA. DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE
RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY NOTING "IT IS SO DIRECTED."

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2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH STATE AND AGRICULTURE
REPRESENTATIVES AT LUNCHEON HE HOSTED FOR SHOPOV JUNE 22,
AMBASSADOR POPOV VOLUNTEERED THAT BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE HAD ERRED REPEATEDLY IN NOT SENDING SPECIAL-
ISTS TO CONFER WITH USDA SPECIALISTS ON SUBJECTS FOR COOP-
ERATION. POPOV SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER
WHEN HE RETURNS TO SOFIA O/A JULY 8 FOR TWO MONTHS

LEAVE. HE NOTED THAT WITH SHOPOV'S BACKING, ACTION WAS ASSURED. POPOV ADDED THAT ON EVE OF SHOPOV VISIT, MINAG HAD PROPOSED SENDING A TEAM TO U.S., BUT THAT HE VETOED VISIT BECAUSE ADEQUATE NOTIFICATION COULD NOT BE GIVEN USDA.

3. IN JUNE 21 VISIT, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE KALOYANOV INFORMED USDA OF FOLLOWING ON INSTRUCTIONS MINAG: (A) MINAG AGREES INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SCOPE AND TYPE OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY BULGARIA WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THAT NOW PROVIDED BY POLAND. (B) MINAG REQUESTS USDA PROVIDE SPECIFIC "NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS" ON BULGARIAN PROPOSALS FOR AGREEMENT. (C) MINAG PREPARED SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO U.S. AT ANY MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DATE. USDA WELCOMED BULGARIAN INITIATIVES, AGREED TO PROVIDE EVALUATION OF BULGARIAN PROPOSAL, AND SUGGESTED SEPTEMBER AS POSSIBLE TIME FOR JOINT MEETING.

4. AT SECRETARY BERGLAND'S RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS JUNE 2, AMBASSADOR POPOV INFORMED SECRETARY BERGLAND OF VISITS BY FORMER SECRETARY BUTZ AND UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL, AND URGED SECRETARY BERGLAND TO VISIT BULGARIA. HE ALSO MENTIONED FORMER SECRETARY BUTZ' INVITATION TO MINISTER KRUSTEV, NOTED THAT KRUSTEV WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE U.S., AND INQUIRED IF THE SECRETARY WOULD HONOR THE INVITATION OF HIS PREDECESSOR. SECRETARY BERGLAND RESPONDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE MINISTER KRUSTEV AND THAT HIS INVITATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING ON HIS RETURN FROM THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 24.

5. ACTION: USDA PROPOSES TO ASK MINAG SEND SPECIALISTS TO U.S. IN SEPTEMBER TO PREPARE DRAFT OF AGREEMENT. KRUSTEV WOULD BE INVITED TO VISIT IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER AT WHICH TIME AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED. APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE.

6. FYI, USDA ENVISAGES LIMITED ACTIVITIES UNDER AGREEMENT AS NO RPT NO SPECIFIC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER ANY BILATERAL AGREEMENT. EACH USDA AGENCY MUST SUPPORT ITS PARTICIPATION FROM OWN BUDGET. USDA WILL ENCOURAGE EXCHANGE OF GERMPLASM AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS, BUT WILL LIMIT RESEARCH TO TWO OR THREE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS SUBJECTS. USDA WILL EXPECT STRICT QUID PRO QUO BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC DATA EXCHANGES. USDA DOES NOT ENVISAGE NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT MORE FORMAL OR MORE ELABORATE THAN U.S.-POLISH JOINT STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND U.S.-ROMANIAN PROTOCOLS ON TRADE AND COOPERATION IN AGRICUL-

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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